Report of the South African New World Theocratic Assembly

OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES—April 23-26, 1943

'I will open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing.'—Malachi 3:10.

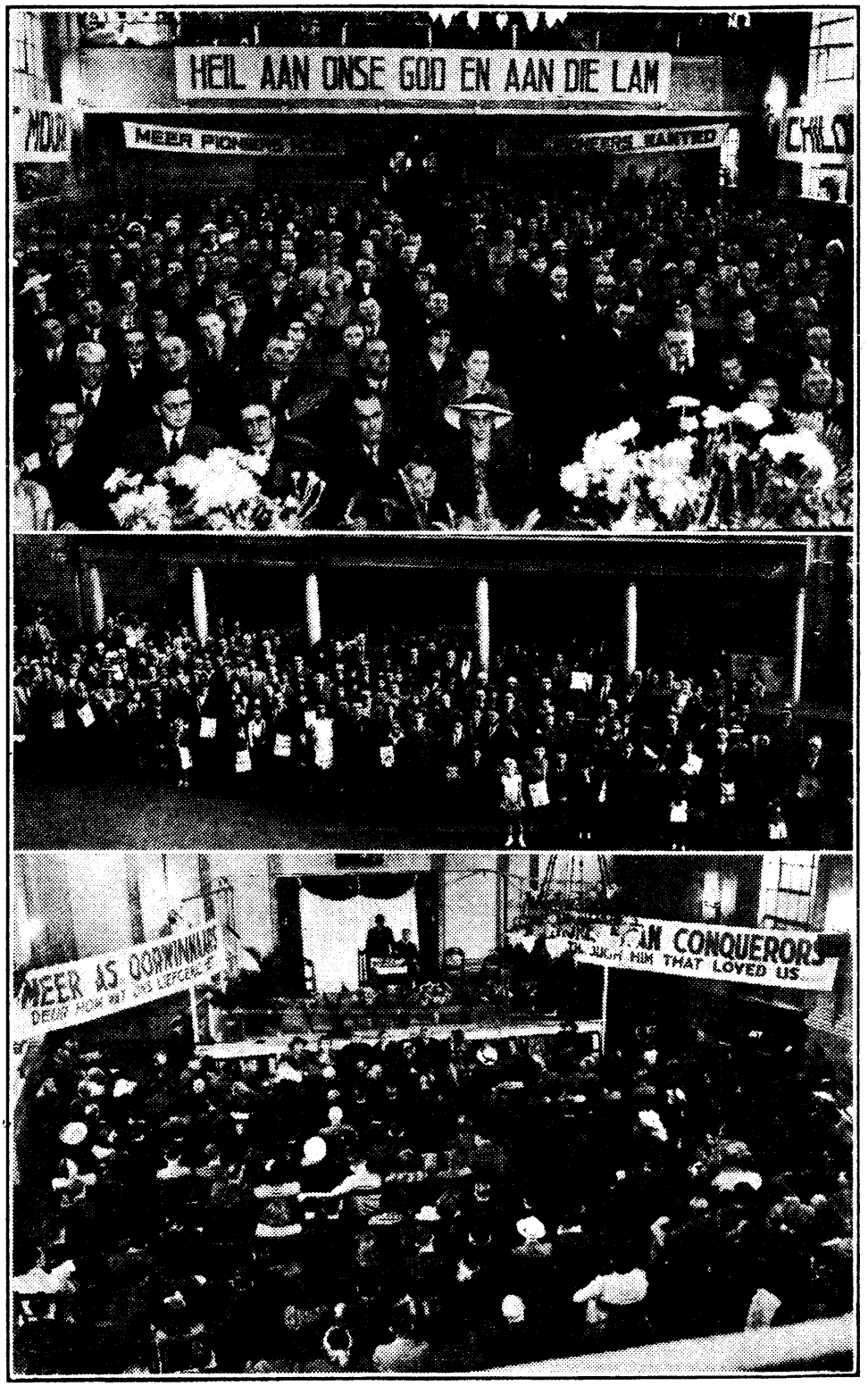
The New World Theocratic Assembly

(Held in more than 90 cities throughout the earth—Cleveland Ohio, U.S.A., the key city —September 18-20, 1942)

JEHOVAH GOD the great Theocrat in heaven speaks a command to his King and Executive Officer, Christ Jesus. The Head of Jehovah's capital organization starts to work to carry out the will of his Almighty Father. By means of Jehovah's spirit the visible part of the Lord's organization is directed into activity. A few consecrated ones on earth start to work. Others are consulted. Definite plans are made. Now these plans are put into operation and more help is needed. The working army grows; its recruits are "willing volunteers". Weeks pass, and by this time from its single visible point of origin the work has spread in many directions. It gains momentum, hits full speed ahead, and after the passing of many months is duly completed. It is the Lord's organization on earth working industriously in the midst of demonized enemies to the one end and all under the direction of the Theocratic King. How well it is pictured by a "bee", or a beehive, humming with activity!

But why these months of study, planning, preparation, negotiating and work, all pointing to one grand climax? What was the will of the great Theocrat as expressed to his Executive Officer that set in motion all this humming activity? This: That His covenant people on earth in the old world gather in a New World assembly. 'Thy will be done,' and through his organization it was carried out. All this work was to bear fruit in one great outpouring of blessings, in three days, September 18-20, 1942, in more than 90 cities throughout the earth. The joyous harvest was reaped at the New World Theocratic Assembly.

March 6, 1942, the president's letter announcing the Assembly was sent to all companies of Jehovah's witnesses and pioneers. During that same month the factory at Brooklyn, N.Y., started working extra time in preparation for the convention. From that time until the end of August the factory, in addition to the



1. *Close attention was given to each discourse.* 2. *Ready for action and eager for the fray.* 3. *Waiting to hear "A Message from the President."*

regularly scheduled working days, put in the equivalent of 33 working days by Saturday afternoon and evening work. During that period hundreds of thousands of copies of Bibles and Biblical literature, including advertising material for the public lecture were printed. The tonnage of paper required for this printing was upwards of 200 tons. Truly the factory was a beehive humming day and night for six months prior to the Assembly making these sweet things so that the antitypical Promised Land during the convention days might flow with "milk and honey".

This is just some of the work behind the holding of the New World Theocratic Assembly. The convention cities were selected, and halls obtained, and then had to be held; arrangements were made for the AT&T lines; rooming accommodations must be obtained, and territory for convention field service prepared, and then the Assembly must be thoroughly advertised in each of the selected cities; all this to be accomplished prior to the convention itself.

Were the results of all this work, the three-day Assembly, worth the tremendous amount of time, material and energy expended; Obviously one who would ask that question wasn't there.

Jehovah God directed this Assembly to be held and through his organization invited his people to attend. By the time of the convention's climax 160,000 had responded and had assembled at these 90 cities in America, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Australia New Zealand, South Africa, West Africa, South America, Mexico, Switzerland and Sweden. Some came by train, car, and bicycle. Others came by horse and covered wagon, and on foot. One arrived even in an ambulance, and a group of lively witnesses pulled in in a hearse. But they came; they were not willing to 'forsake the assembling of themselves together, and especially in view of the evil days approaching'.

Shipping difficulties and the present poor communications made it impossible for Jehovah's witnesses and their companions in South Africa to share fully in these blessings along with their brethren in America, Europe and elsewhere during the September week-end. However the arm of the Lord is not shortened and in due season some of the blessings reached these shores and arrangements were made to assemble at Johannesburg, April 23-26, 1943.

Jehovah's witnesses and their companions to the number of approximately 1200 met in Johannesburg during the last week-end of April. They came from all parts of Southern Africa—from the Cape to the Zambesi. Faces from every city in the Union were to be seen. The dorps and farms were well represented. Rhodesia sent its quota and one publisher had just

A publisher from Cairo (Greek refugee) attended the Convention.

recently arrived from Cairo. The presence of these people in Johannesburg told an eloquent story of Theocratic persistency, initiative and perseverance in the face of difficulties. In these days travel is not easy. Tales of hardship encountered on the way were many. Some started out from home in cars rendered unreliable by the present general inability to replace wearing parts, and with barely sufficient fuel. Some got through; others had to abandon their cars and complete the journey by train. How last-minute accommodation was obtained on trains booked up weeks ahead is a matter to wonder at. The explanation is that Theocratic necessity knows no insurmountable obstacles. Every difficulty is an opportunity.

The Old and The New

Seen in true perspective this New World Theocratic Assembly was the greatest event in South Africa to date in 1943. The dramatic and tremendous events which grip the attention of the vast majority of earth's population concern a dying old world doomed to early extinction. The New World Theocratic Assembly at Johannesburg, however, concerned the incoming of the "world without end" which Jehovah has promised to create in his due time, and the great events now transpiring upon our globe prove that this due time has come. The Assembly was for the purpose of instructing all lovers of righteousness regarding the fulfillment of prophecy confirming the above conclusion, and to give Theocratic instruction as to how every lover of righteousness may have a direct share in the great building activities now in progress for the establishment and maintenance of the true worship of Jehovah God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Assembly also served the purpose of giving all such lovers of righteousness there gathered a practical demonstration of how such instructions should be put into practice if we are to please our God, Jehovah and his King, Christ Jesus, our Redeemer.

As one entered the convention hall one was handed a programme by an usher. Programmes of these conventions are menus of the spiritual food to be served by the Lord, and they are always scanned with relish. On this one, the first thing that catches the eye is the cover design. A beautiful and graceful maiden is shown dancing down the path from a little cottage to meet an older man, a warrior in battle attire. What could this design mean? A picture of the glorious earth after Armageddon? It seems that it might be—the little cottage with its flower-lined path, the beautiful girl gaily rushing forth to meet this older man, her father, perhaps. But no, it couldn't be pictorial of post-Armageddon conditions; for the man is clad as a warrior and has a sword girded at his side. Such weapons shall then be beaten into peacetime instruments. Then, what could it be? It must be of some significance, because such has been the case with past convention programs. But on with the convention. The Lord will give the interpretation in good time.

Passing into the main auditorium one beheld a magnificent sight and realised that this was surely a fitting place to hold a New World Theocratic Assembly. Large banners in English and Afrikaans on either side of the platform carried the yeartext for 1943, namely, "More than conquerors through him that loved us". Two others blazed forth the words, "Blameless in the Day of Our Lord". These scriptures proved to be most appropriate for all the lectures pointed to this theme—blamelessly serving the Lord and maintaining integrity toward him and so proving more than conquerors at this crucial time. It was a service convention. The platform itself was tastefully decorated, with a motif of purple and gold, reminiscent of the fact that here were assembled those under the royal direction of "the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God". The speakers' table was flanked on either side by potted palms, the containers draped in rich purple set off with bands of gold. In front across the stage were ranged brass vases with crysanthemums, alternating with smaller potted palms—palms symbol of uprightness and also of victory. In front of the speakers' table was a tastefully drawn small placard emphasising KINGDOM INTERESTS FIRST, and depicting a Theocratic publisher swinging into action. On the wall at the back of the podium was a curtain of pure white, bordered with purple and tassels of gold, the

All "Children of the King". They love to advertise The Theocracy.

whole upheld by a golden bar, beautifully emblematic of how Jehovah's people who worship Him with a pure motive are upheld by the might of power divine. Higher up against the wall and dominating the whole stage was displayed in colours the calendar picture for 1943. The theme picture under the yeartext brings into sharp relief the situation facing mankind and in which faithful Christians must overcome.

Advertise! Advertise! Advertise!

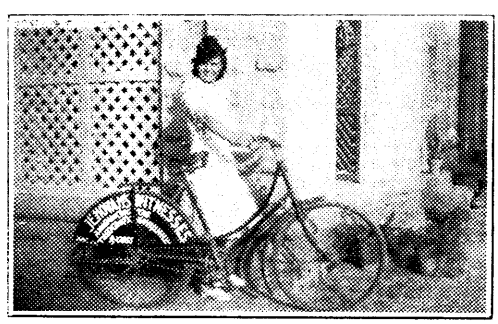
On the first morning of the Assembly a brief meeting for Theocratic activities was held; then to the field to tell others of this blessed Assembly. That afternoon an assembly for advertising was called, and after brief instructions on the various modes of publishing the Kingdom message and publicizing the talk "Peace—Can It Last?" and the procedure to be followed all went forth to let Johannesburg know about this timely discourse. Hundreds flooded out in every direction, covering many parts of the town and handing out printed invitations to the main lecture. Everywhere the gaze met them: men, women and children offering the handbills with a pleasant smile to all with whom they came in contact. One thing was certain: Johannesburg knew that the representatives of the New World were in town, and those of good-will were informed of their welcome to the meetings. In passing it is noted that it rained all this day. That is all the notice it merits in this report. The publishers didn't seem to notice it, so why should we?

Feed The Multitude

'Thou shalt not muzzle the ox while he treadeth out the corn.' So the publishers upon completion of the morning and afternoon's work returned to the hall and found their way to the cafeteria. It was busily engaged in dispensing temporal food. Just as 'those who do not work shall not eat', the converse is true, and all the Theocratic workers attending the Assembly were well fed, physically as well as spiritually.

The organization and operation of the cafeteria was flawless and a marvel to all those who knew of the difficult conditions under which it was run. Prior to the Assembly is was anticipated that there would be some difficulty in obtaining the necessary supplies but many of the friends in all parts of the country sent or brought foodstuffs with them. As a result of their loving and thoughtful co-operation there was plenty for all. The cafeteria workers did a splendid job, all of it without pay, and many of them were mere children.

That evening the convention really started moving. The chairman delivered an address of welcome first in English and then in Afrikaans. In the course of his remarks he stated: "We are not here gathered to meditate upon the past and what has been done by individuals, nor have we assembled for the purpose of digging in and holding our ground, waiting for a more favourable time to advance. The days of defensive warfare are past and we have come to the time when the offensive warfare and the defeat of persecution must continue even unto Armageddon, when Almighty God will take on the great offensive and begin the 'strange act' and completely clean out wickedness and the Devil's organization. By the Lord's grace we want to be there



Even a push-bike can be used to advertise The Theocratic Government.

at the finish. The only way we can be there is to keep up with the progressive, marching programme that Jehovah is directing now for His people. Not for a moment will we stop and rest on our laurels, lest we be left behind. Our brethren in totalitarian lands, who have been beaten, persecuted and some killed because of their persistence in worshiping the only true God and who are denied the right of assembly with us, continue to remain blameless in the day of our Lord." It was further emphasised that this was never a one-man Society and never will be, but that Jehovah's witnesses are following Christ Jesus as God's appointed Leader for them.

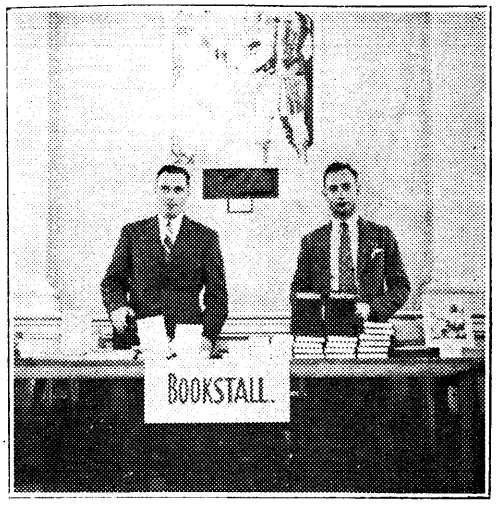
The "Go Ahead" Signal

The address of welcome was followed by two key-note speeches, one each in English and Afrikaans. These addresses were based on Isaiah's prophecy, chapters fifty-nine and sixty and Psalm 147. They were a rousing call to action, showing that the light of Jehovah's Theocratic Government by Christ Jesus would never be blacked out by the totalitarian forces, but that God Almighty was now giving the "Go ahead" signal to his witnesses on earth despite total war and persecution, and that they must continue preaching the Kingdom message to the final end, even if all the Kingdom publications be taken away and only the Bible be left them to use, or not even that, but only God's word in their mouths. They must "arise, shine!" Quoting Isaiah 59:21 concerning Jehovah's having put his words in the mouths of his anointed witnesses and their companions, and that such words would not depart from their mouths from henceforth and FOR EVER, the emphatic declaration was made that the standard of Jehovah's name and kingdom would never be lowered until the floodlike onrush of the adversaries had been halted forever at Armageddon!

The commission from on high to the witnesses was cited, "Go and tell this people, Hear ye indeed." How long shall they keep going and telling? Till dictators and totalitarian rule are junked in "the lake of fire and brimstone"; till "the cities be wasted without inhabitant and the houses without man". In other words until the door-to-door work is useless because there are no people in the houses to answer the witnesses' doorbell ringing.

What would be the result of the continual steady persistent shining of "the only light"? Beautiful and inspiring was the answer given from the 60th chapter of Isaiah's prophecy: 'The abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. They shall fly as a dense cloud, as thick flocks of doves that fairly darken the earth beneath, to the windows or entrances to the only place of safety before Armageddon's storm. The little one shall become a thousand and the small one a strong nation. Jehovah shall hasten it in his time.' Assurance is given in this chapter that the gates of Zion should be open continually, being shut neither day nor night, that the ingathering of this great multitude will go on day and night until finished and the enemy cannot close those gates to any desiring to flee thither.

A happy group of some who were immersed.



"Study to show thyself approved unto God". Jehovah's witnesses are keen students of the Bible.

"The Sword of The Spirit"

How perfect, now, was the setting for the final portion of the evening's programme: With the audience thoroughly aroused by the speeches to which they had just listened, the convention servant stepped forward to deliver the address "Presenting 'The Sword of the Spirit' ". In view of the tremendous ingathering yet to come, as just outlined, note the appropriateness of the opening words: "There is further work to be done; much work!" Mentioning the necessity of all to arise and shine in response to the "Go ahead" signal in an offensive warfare, the greatest offensive weapon was identified as being God's Word the Bible, the "sword of the spirit". Then the speaker put into words the thought often in the minds of Jehovah's servants: the need of using the Lord's Word quickly, but the inability to unsheath this sword quickly enough. 'If we could only find the text we want, we could hold off opponents, we could comfort those that mourn, we could give a word in season and make simple to others, with abundant proof, the things so clear to us. If we only had a Bible with helps wherein we could find quickly what we need!' How well these words expressed the long-felt need and fervent desire of Jehovah's witnesses! The speaker went on to explain that such a Bible had been prepared by the Society. Like an explosion thunderous applause burst from the vast gathering! Whereas this Bible is the well-known King James or Authorised Version and the text of the Bible has not been altered one iota, it contains helps which bring out the predominantly Theocratic features of the Word of God as no other publication of the Bible has ever done before.

Printed on the Society's presses; all work done by consecrated hands; months of study by more than 150 collaborators, all full-time servants of Jehovah, resulting in a concordance specially designed for use by Jehovah's witnesses in their ministerial work; an index of proper names, expressions and their meanings; and several pages of scriptures under the heading "God's Word on Vital Subjects", were some of the special features described by the speaker as he displayed a copy. The desire of the publishers to possess a copy of this Bible was so manifest that it was almost pathetic to observe their disappointment that they could not each have a copy straight away. The prospect of getting a copy as soon as shipping space will permit greatly cheered them. The fact that such a Bible was already in general use in America and other parts of the earth brought unselfish joy to their hearts.

The speaker concluded, "It is hoped that this Bible will play a large part in bringing honour and praise to the name of the Most High as all the fighters for the New World march on to victory and the vindication of Jehovah's name." And why shouldn't it? God's great weapon for his New World warriors, the 'sword of the spirit', sharpened to razor-edge by his organization and placed in the hands of his zealous Theocracy fighters! Woe be unto modern-day counterparts of fatty King Eglon as these New World fighters, armed with this newly whetted sword, spring forward in response to the "go ahead" signal wielding this new weapon in the interests of those of good-will still held prisoners in Satan's religious organizations. Their bonds shall be severed; like clouds of doves that darken the sky shall they fly from darkness to the only light; and Jehovah's name shall be honoured. By his grace, this new Watchtower edition of the Bible will play an important part in this work.

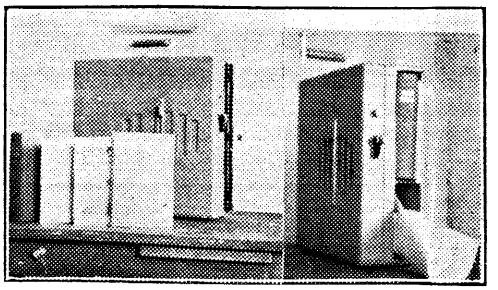
The display of the vertical type phonograph gave the conventioners their next thrill and they noted with pleasure this evidence of the Lord's blessing on the labours of their brethren at headquarters in the manufacture and production of this further instrument to help in carrying forward the Theocratic warfare. The session closed with the release of the 1943 calendar—a little belated due to circumstances over which we have no control but none the less welcome—and "Kingdom News" No. 11 with its beautiful message: "The people have a right to good news NOW". This was available in both English and Afrikaans.

The first evenings's session, with its stirring lectures and surprises, supplied the spark that threw the convention into high gear. Already our cup was running over.

The first session of the second day was scheduled to begin at 8-30 a.m. but long before eight the convention buildings were humming with activity, busy tongues chattering, busy feet clattering, and busy hands preparing for Theocratic service. The tumult was stilled at the half-hour when the army assembled to receive its orders for the day. Then at nine o'clock these fighters for the New World once again spread over the Johannesburg area like a band of locusts, to the chagrin of religious hypocrites and the joy of honest people of good-will toward God and His kingdom. It was a magazine effort and the street work received special attention. It was noted that many who engaged in this phase of Kingdom activity this day did so for the first time. Some were old and seasoned publishers who came from companies where the street work is regularly engaged in. Others were younger publishers who because of diffidence had as yet failed to make the plunge in their home territories. They found the water not nearly so cold as they had imagined. They came back exhilirated and refreshed. This rally was productive of more happy experiences than any other at the assembly. Stories were told of interest which just contacted itself, of back-calls and studies aranged for right on the busy Johannesburg streets, of literature placed and gladly accepted. Children shared enthusiastically and efficiently in this work. In lifting up the voice of wisdom in the streets their youth is no handicap and their results compare favourably with their elders. Pavement witnessing was again proven to be one of the most effective and enjoyable methods of bringing the Kingdom message to the attention of the people.

A Peculiar People

Throughout the day the various convention halls and passages and the street outside swarmed with witnesses, going to or returning from the field, or working in connection with the various convention activities. Observers were puzzled. Hundreds of people, and no discord or bickering. Not one of them smoked. They had no bottles on their hips, nor chips on their shoulders. A stranger remarked, "Well, I've been here many years but I've never seen people like this. Tell them to go this way or that way, and they go as directed. They don't ask questions, but gladly obey. And not one of them's smoking. I've cut down



The vertical phonograph caused a thrill and was greatly admired.

"Thy people shall be willing [volunteers] in the day of thy power."—Ps. 110:3.

myself since they arrived, and if they stay here a few more days I'll stop smoking altogether!"

The afternoon session opened with singing, hundreds uniting in songs of praise to Jehovah, led by an orchestra strictly of consecrated musicians. Following this was a thirty-minute discussion in Afrikaans on "Assembly unto the Kingdom". A few more songs were sung and then at 4 p.m. the convention servant delivered an hour's talk on "Fighters for the New World".

"Fighters For the New World"

From its outset this talk had strong appeal to those who were actually fighters for the New World. It was shown how we stand at Armageddon's threshhold, that in that battle of worlds, the old and the new, all those clinging to the old world will suffer annihilation. "Then," the speaker declared, "Christ Jesus, who when on earth went down into death without a fight will use his all-power in heaven and in earth and violently fight for the New World, and WIN!" and the audience, seeing the victory by faith, obviously appreciated this statement. "Not a single vestige of religion shall enter and mar that new world," and from this he went into a brief consideration of Jephthah, a mighty man of valour and a fighter for The Theocracy. An outstanding point emphasised was that God's people then saw and those at present see the need of a central, UNIFIED command that the campaign against the enemy might be properly directed to obtain victory. Back there Jephthah was the one chosen to be leader, and he looked to the Lord for direction. So desirous of victory for the sake of Jehovah's name was Jephthah that he vowed that if the Lord would give the victory over the Ammonites, then upon his return home whatsoever came forth from his house to meet him he would offer up as a burnt offering.

Jephthah went from victory to victory and fought an extended campaign in the field. Jephthah pictured Christ Jesus and the visible Society on earth charged with directing the campaign. It is Theocratic rule, a central, unified command. Jephthah's victory march pictured the fight waged by Jehovah's witnesses against the encroachment of totalitarian-religious powers, which fight has been under the command of the Greater Jephthah Christ Jesus since the installation of Theocratic rule in 1938. Jehovah's witnesses have not holed up, nor given ground. "So FORWARD they go, these fighters for the New World," declared the speaker, and added: "The battle has been hard, and becomes harder. It is not over, and may yet be a long one. But their King, the greater Jephthah, goes on conquering and to conquer."

Then the speaker turned the attention of the listeners to Jephthah's victorious return home, his being met by his rejoicing daughter, and his remembrance of his vow. Now all understood the picture on the cover of the programme, concerning which they had speculated, and as the talk continued to unfold and the greater Jephthah was clearly visualised, there was eagerness to know as to whom the daughter foreshadowed. Who could she be? Six pointed questions built up to the climactic answer—the "other sheep", the companions of the anointed remnant, their fellow fighters for the New World!

All present received into grateful hearts the simple and touching tale of Jephthah's beloved daughter. Those of the "Jephthah's daughter" class were filled then and there with a deep-seated, unshakable resolve to continue meeting the course set forth by the darling one who danced out to meet her fighting father. If previously any had any reservations in the fight, such were vanished now as they inwardly vowed that henceforth and forevermore it was to be everything for the issue, for use in fulfilling the vow of the Greater Jephthah. Thrilled indeed were these companions by the "well done" commendation when the speaker declared concerning their responsibility, "They ARE bearing it in increasing measure and, by God's grace, are doing a good and faithful job, which the remnant rejoice at and much appreciate."

At the conclusion of the speech a resolution was proposed:

RESOLUTION

"JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, gathered throughout the earth in Theocratic Assembly, do hereby declare:

"THAT Jehovah God is the great Theocrat and the Builder of the New World; and Christ Jesus his Son is God's appointed Judge and King of the New World and is the Head of God's capital organization; and God's organization is Theocratic;

"THAT we are unequivocally devoted to Jehovah's Theocratic Government by Christ Jesus, and therefore recognize our commission and obligation from the Lord God to proclaim the gospel of His kingdom and to thereby comfort all that mourn. This we must do without fail and regardless of all worldly opposition;

"THAT, by the fulfillments of prophecy and by the course of action taken under the Lord's guidance and blessing, the WATCH TOWER SOCIETY is the visible part of the Lord's organization; and the only proper and rightful organization and rule of the Society is the Theocratic organization and rule;

"THAT the purpose of the Society and the activities of Jehovah's witnesses in co-operation with it are not commercial and are absolutely separate from the politics of this world. Their work is an unselfish one of education in the Bible and carried on in obedience to the commandment of the Most High God and to enlighten men of good-will concerning the only hope of humankind, God's kingdom. All the increase that God gives to this work in gathering His "other sheep" into the fold we acknowledge to be the Lord's and shall yield up such to the Lord to be used wholly in His service;

"THAT we are opposed to all totalitarian rule and its limitation of the worship of Jehovah God through Jesus Christ. We owe allegiance to no foreign power, religious or political, but our Head and Leader is the One of God's choice and designation, Christ Jesus the King, whose example we will follow in the worship and service of God. Come what the Lord may permit, we will continue to worship Jehovah God and to resist all demonized encroachments upon His worship and service, and to fight on in indissoluble unity until He gives the victory through his Theocratic Government by Christ Jesus."

Moved and seconded, 1200 there assembled gave their word before the Lord by shouting a mighty "Aye", followed by great applause.

Another Surprise

Fast on the heels of this demonstration, and by the utterance of a few short sentences of explanation the speaker threw the assembled multitude into far more tumultuous and prolonged cheers by springing another grand surprise, the release of a pamphlet complete with questions entitled "The New World"!

Still bubbling over about the calendar and "Kingdom News", the witnesses were overwhelmed by this additional outpouring. With unrestrained excitement the overjoyed witnesses examined this second major release of the Assembly. Long after its release the excited buzz and ejaculations of pleasure continued. During the evening meal in the cafeteria this pamphlet was much in evidence, the witnesses reluctant to lay it aside for a moment. The supply was quickly exhausted. As one witness put it, "They

The youngest regular publisher in the country with her pioneer mother. Their "home" is in the background.

ran out of everything but enthusiasm!" At the close of the afternoon session the convention servant spent an hour with the company servants from various parts of the country and gave them some timely instruction.

Just as the importance of serving The Theocracy permeated all the talks of the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon sessions, so that night service dominated the programme. "Pioneer Opportunities Now" identified pioneers as those who go before and prepare the way for others. They take the lead in 'going through the gates, preparing the way of the people, gathering the stones out of the Kingdom highway, and lifting up a standard for the people'. Are there pioneer opportunities now? Never greater; for "at this very hour", the speaker said, "there are entire districts and portions of territory that have not been given the witness since 1938!" Important requirements of pioneers are unselfish devotion to the Most High and the will to work.

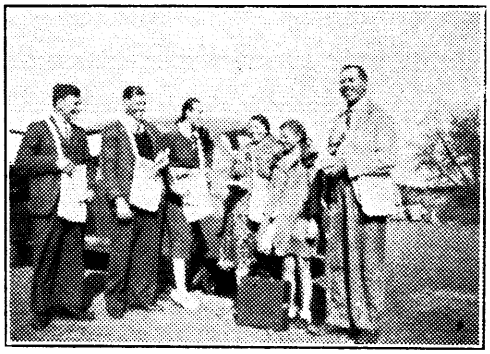
Some of the snares keeping some out of the pioneer service were discussed. Some of little faith maintain they cannot "make a living". The purpose of pioneering is to comfort all that mourn and share in the vindication of Jehovah's name, not "making a living". It was pointed out that Jehovah feeds the birds and wild beasts. With far stronger reasoning, he will provide for his servants. Others think they should hole up on a farm somewhere till Armageddon's storm blows over. That isn't fulfilling the commission to preach. There are those of little understanding who seek a wife, or worldly goods, or so-called "higher learning"; pioneers seek first the Kingdom. Then it was stressed that "the New World is here to stay!" During the convention quite a number responded to the call for more front line fighters.

Theocratic Rule Magnified

The next speaker, on "Serving The Theocracy" stressed the need for the new Theocratic "Organization Instructions". Close attention was paid as its contents were discussed. The need for such new instructions was shown to be due to the expansion of the work and increased light coming in due season. The responsibility of each one to personally preach and bear his own burden was emphasised.

Step by step these instructions were enumerated showing how each one might serve in unity with their fellow servants and advance the interests of the Kingdom in an organized manner. A new servant was introduced—"servant to the brethren," who is to visit the companies twice a year to assist them in rendering efficient service in harmony with "Organization Instructions". In closing the following admonition was given:

"And now, brethren, don't anyone say, 'Oh, these Organization Instructions are all right for a large company or for some other kind of company, but they do not apply to us,' or, 'I have to change this, or amend that, before it can apply to us.' My brethren, these organization instructions are from the Lord through his prudent and faithful servant unto whom the Lord has given the job of issuing such instructions, and they apply



A happy family. All serve the Theocracy.

to all companies, large and small. If your present arrangement is not geared to conform to the Lord's requirements, do not expect the Lord to change his arrangement to suit you. Creatures are to conform to the Lord's requirements, not the Lord to creatures' whims. Get in line with the Lord's method of carrying on the work."

That same evening two speakers took fifteen minutes each to give a short talk in English and Afrikaans on the subject "Baptism". The following day 209 symbolized their consecration to serve the Lord, by water immersion.

On the Sunday morning there was further opportunity for field service and approximately 900 participated. In between the sessions, and particularly after the morning service in the field preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and advertising the New World Assembly, the publishers delighted in rehearsing the righteous acts of the Lord with their fellow Theocratists at these assemblies which had proved to be such refreshing 'watering places'. Many and of great variety were the experiences of the ambassadors of the New World to be heard at this Assembly as they sat eating at the cafeteria tables or gathered in little knots about the various halls to rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord toward them as they participated in his "strange work". Space only permits reference to two of these. A witness earning his daily bread on a large citrus estate decided to do his duty towards the manager of the estate by bringing the Kingdom gospel to his attention. He equipped himself with his phonograph, records, literature, etc., called and knocked at the door. On being asked the purpose of his visit he drew attention to Matthew 24:14 as his commission for doing as he did. The manager could not yet quite see how that concerned him. Then came the publisher's further explanation: "You see, Mr —— Revelation 22:17 states 'Let him that heareth say, Come.' I am one that has heard, and I now say 'Come'." This served to open the manager's door wide to him and he entered and was granted time to give a full and detailed witness. When he left he was invited to come again at some opportune time.

There was a family present at the Assembly, consisting of nine individuals, who not very long ago were extreme members of the "Ossewa Brandwag". At that time they manifested such antipathy to the "Engelsman" that they imbedded a penny in the floor of one of their rooms in their home as a symbol of how the "Engelsman" should be trodden under foot. It was a bi-lingual "Engelsman" that brought the Kingdom message to them. They gave little evidence at first of wanting to give heed to the Kingdom message. In due course, however, the light began to penetrate to their minds, and when they saw how hopelessly the local predikant of the branch of religion to which they belonged floundered and resorted to personal attacks and slanders when he was faced with the Theocratic truths of the Bible, they told him to quit and now they are as zealous in the Kingdom service as they had been extreme in one of the modern schemes of the Devil to blind the minds of men to the only light and hope of those who desire everlasting life under The Theocracy.

Some of those who have kept the Theocratic "Standard" on high in So. Rhodesia. Several in this group were present at the Convention.

Defeat of Persecution

The first meeting on Sunday afternoon was a half-hour discourse on "Defeat of Persecution". The reassembled servants of the Lord were greatly refreshed as a parallel was drawn between the experiences of the early Christians and those of Jehovah's witnesses in modern times. The persecution upon the early Church resulted in a scattering of the Christians but as they spread the message wherever they went the result was a great increase in the work. So in these days it was shown that the decrees of totalitarian religious dictators had not stopped the witness work but that on the contrary the persecution had resulted in modern day Christians adding to their numbers daily. At the conclusion of this talk a representative from Southern Rhodesia gave an interesting ten-minute talk on the progress of the Kingdom work in that country. Although deprived of their Christian literature Jehovah's witnesses and their companions continue to give out the message by word of mouth. Whereas there were about 800 active witnesses at the time of the Minister's ban there are now over 1100 actively engaged in spreading the message of God's Kingdom. Persecution has thus been defeated in that country as elsewhere. Jehovah's witnesses have stood firm and maintained their integrity and will continue to obey the Higher Powers until the witness work has been completed.

Message from the President

Then came the high spot of the convention when a "Message from the President" was read. This message like the opening keynote addresses and all the other discourses in between, stressed faithful service to The Theocracy until the Lord says it is enough. Briefly the President showed the growth of the Lord's visible organization from what it was in 1922 and to what it is today, by Jehovah's grace. He warned the brethren of greater trials ahead, sparing neither brothers nor sisters, but reminded them of Jehovah's promises and sounded His keynote of victory to the more-than-conquerors. He announced the coming visits of the "servants to the brethren" and spoke of the Lord's other provisions for their comfort and use in His service.

Several extracts were then read from letters recently received from Brother Knorr in which he expressed his joy at the increase of publishers and the work in general in South Africa in spite of present day restrictions. Finally extracts from Brother Knorr's annual report regarding the work accomplished in 1942 and the College of Gilead were read and the enthusiasm of the brethren was a joy to behold. All of Brother Knorr's communications breathed the spirit of the Lord and were of tremendous encouragement to all who heard them. Instead of disintegration because of the passing on of a man, as "wishful thinking" religious enemies predicted, the Lord's organization on earth is more closely knit and welded together now under Theocratic rule than ever before in the history of the church. All drive ahead in unbreakable unity under the greater Jephthah to further onslaughts against the modern Ammonites.

"PEACE—Can It Last?"

Sunday evening 7-30 saw the peak attendance at the Convention when 1500 assembled to hear the much advertised lecture, "Peace—Can It Last?" as originally given by the President of the Society at Cleveland seven months earlier, to an audience of 129,000 assembled in 52 cities throughout America. Such an audience is surely a stinging rebuke to the lying religious leaders who maintained that the late Judge Rutherford was the leader of

The president and chairman at Cleveland just before the Public Lecture

At the Bath—209 symbolised their consecration to do the will of God.

Jehovah's witnesses, but doubtless it will do them no good, as many stripes on the backs of fools are required, not reproofs. These stripes they shall have at Armageddon, but if they were wise they would consider Gamaliel's words and apply the principle there set forth and refrain from further fighting against God. Gamaliel's counsel was, in substance, this: 'Theudas rose up and hundreds joined themselves unto him. He was slain, and those who had followed him were scattered and came to nought. Judas of Galilee drew many people after him. He perished, and all who had obeyed him were dispersed. So, refrain from these men (the apostles); because if they are following a man and the work is of men it will come to nought. But if it is God you cannot overthrow it and you will be found fighting against God.' The one whom religious clergy claimed was the leader of the witnesses is dead as a human creature, yet the witnesses were not dispersed, but assembled together in greater numbers than ever before and in closer unity than ever before. Why? Because their Leader shall never die and he is the King of The Theocracy, Christ Jesus. The meek of the earth can appreciate this now more than ever before; but religious fools ignore these powerful physical facts and continue fighting against God, and will be so occupied when swept away into everlasting destruction at Armageddon.

The Question Answered

Never did one hour pass so fast. Scarcely had the speaker begun, it seemed, than he quit. But in that fleeting hour as smashing a blow as ever dealt religious politicians since the days that Jesus walked on the earth was there landed, and the Roman Catholic Hierarchy received the full force of the mighty wallop.

The speaker said the present war was for world domination, that since the Reformation it was inevitable. It is between parties of two sets of ideas. It is not Armageddon; and the Scriptures show that before that battle comes, a peace must come. A forceful argument was advanced, which had a ring of authority because based solely upon God's infallible Word, showing just how peace would

come about and what would quickly follow. In view of the importance and interest of that speech it is reproduced in full at the end of this report.

The publishers of The Theocracy were busy again on Monday morning taking the message of the Kingdom to the people of Johannesburg. In the early part of the afternoon many interesting experiences were related which proved to be of great encouragement to all present. Then followed the convention report. The scope of such an assembly and the tremendous amount of work involved has been depicted. Certainly it was well worth it to those in attendance. Did others aside from the conventioners benefit therefrom? They did as shown by the reports. In all 1022 publishers shared in the field service and 6,272 books, booklets and magazines containing the message of God's kingdom were placed in the hands of the people of Johannesburg. This was a mighty flood of truth—quite a cloudburst for one week-end—and many would be refreshed and enlightened thereby. The total time spent by the publishers in this work totalled 6317 hours. Back-calls on interested people numbered 494 and at 76 of these model studies were conducted; 600 new names were handed in to the service department during the week-end.

Victory

An interesting talk in Afrikaans on "Atonement for The New World" was the next feature on the programme and then the concluding talk was given by the convention servant on the subject "Victory". In this lecture it was shown that victory is not only for the Kingdom, but for the preaching thereof as well. One court victory after another in America was cited as physical facts in proof of this. Many false and trumped-up charges against the witnesses were enumerated, and it was shown how Jehovah had blessed his people with many victories against such injustices. The speaker then dealt with the situation in South Africa, and the progress of the fight for liberty on the home front. The impression of this outline of successes achieved by the Theocratic fighters for The New World in the face of the greatest odds in different parts of the world with special emphasis on the victories gained in this part of the world thrilled those who were privileged to attend this last session of the Assembly to such a vivid realisation of how we are and will be "MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US" that one of them involuntarily remarked, "The grand climax to a glorious programme". Victory of the gospel-preaching does not depend on man-made guarantees and other failing human compacts; but upon the faith of the witnesses in Jehovah God, who would not suffer them to be moved from his witness work until it is finished.

Conclusion

And so the time came for the witnesses to go their several ways. Full time publishers of The Theocracy lingered for another hour however and were greatly encouraged as they helped one another to become more efficient in their work. Some young people who the year previous rose publicly to testify to their stand for The Theocracy on the occasion of the release of the book "Children" and who have shown great zeal since were now among the ranks of these full time fighters. They were grateful to have some additional instruction before leaving for the front line. With the encouraging vision of the still greater numbers who would shortly come forward to swell the ranks of the Jephthah's daughter class and strengthened by the "feast of fat things" they had enjoyed they returned to their local fields of gospel-preaching.

The witnesses left the Assembly with burning zeal, anxious to spring forward in response to the "Go ahead" signal and fight for the New World. The fight ahead might be a long one. But had not the Greater Jephthah swept aside all Ammonitish opposition aimed at blocking this Assembly? and would not He continue to lead his earthly warriors from victory to victory till no opposition remained? None doubted the answer. This is the time when the Greater Jephthah will FIGHT and WIN! Jehovah had given the "Go ahead" signal. And he had not sent them ahead empty-handed. They have new weapons for the war, Jehovah's words in their mouths, and his ever-present invincible spirit upon their heads. The Lord Jehovah spread a table for them in the midst of their enemies, they fed thereat, and their strength was renewed. Now they shall not weary in well-doing and faint. "They that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

So, FORWARD! all fighters for the New World. That He may be glorified, "ARISE and SHINE!"

Expression of Gratitude

At the conclusion of the key assembly at Cleveland the following written expression of appreciation, spontaneously drawn up by a few grateful brethren was read and presented to the president of the Society:

"September 20, 1942.

"To the President of the Society.
"Dear Brother Knorr:

"Our hearts are full, and we feel constrained to express to you our great joy in attending this New World Theocratic Assembly. Everybody here is saying: 'This is the greatest convention yet; we are overwhelmed with blessings; we are satisfied.'

"We have all come to this convention, our first assembly since the passing of our beloved Brother Rutherford, to receive further knowledge and instruction from Jehovah. Each one of us can testify before the Lord that the leadership of Christ Jesus, the King of the New World, is more evident today than ever before, and that recent changes in the administration have not affected the forward movement of the Lord's work. On the other hand, we are receiving today a greater vision and knowledge of The Theocracy and a fuller appreciation of our responsibilities before the Living God in being His witnesses in these days of great peril. How true this day is Judges 5:9, 'My heart is toward the governors of Israel, that offered themselves willingly among the people.' We gratefully acknowledge you, Brother Knorr, as the Lord's anointed servant, chosen to fill the office of president of the WATCH TOWER SOCIETY. The Lord's spirit has indeed been poured out upon you. May he guide and direct you ever in administering the earthly interests of The Theocracy.

"Truly the fulfilment of Jephthah's leadership is amongst us today. The central control has been placed in the Theocratic Society, where it rightly belongs. We greatly desire to express our appreciation of the blessings and bountiful provisions given to us at this convention. Amongst the evidences of Jehovah's provisions is the fact that we are privileged to be at the key city of 52 conventions held in America. It has undoubtedly been the Lord's will for his people to assemble at this season to be spiritually refreshed, by the very fact that the enemy has been thwarted in his attempts to interfere with these assemblies for divine worship. We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the New World edition of The Bible; 'the sword of the spirit'; the beautiful book *The New World; Kingdom News* No. 11; the new Theocratic Instructions; and the booklet *Peace Can It Last?* Recounting these evidences we also recognize the timely spiritual counsel and new truths provided for our edification. We hereby declare our great joy to take immediate action on the 'Go ahead' instruction, and again affirm our determination to be 'blameless in this day of our Lord'.

"We wish to express our appreciation for the much time and thoughtful care and great study devoted to the tremendous preparations made for the world-wide assembly, and we all thank the great Jehovah, the Giver of every good and perfect gift; the Lord Jesus Christ, the mighty Vindicator; yourself as president of the Society; and your faithful co-workers at Brooklyn Bethel, who tirelessly and lovingly shared with you in preparing these blessed gifts.

"The Lord Jehovah has said that he would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that there would not be room enough to receive it. This indeed is our blessed portion this day. We have received to overflowing, and cannot contain more.

"We now wish you and all the Bethel family Jehovah's richest blessing in the coming days. We go back to our respective assignments in the Lord's 'vineyard', where we will keep covenant obligation and also continue singing the Victory Song. We are fully determined to fight for the New World, which we are now entering, and with the Lord's word ringing in our ears: 'As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.'—Isaiah 59:21."

At the request that all stand who approved of this as their own heart-felt expression the entire Assembly rose as one man.

A similar expression was unanimously endorsed at the Johannesburg Assembly.

PEACE—Can It Last?

Can religion guarantee a lasting peace?

What is the "beast that was, and is not, and yet is"? (Revelation 17:8)

Who will establish the enduring peace, and when?

WHEN the "four horsemen" began their ride through the world in 1914, the nations and peoples painfully felt the steel-shod hoofs of the fire-red horse. Its mad gallop was foretold in the Apocalypse in these words: "And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." (Revelation 6:4) That ride, bringing the bloody World War, seemed to come to an end in 1918, and the sword was sheathed in peace. A permanent peace it was hoped it would be. Now it can be seen that the peace was only a truce, a prolonged armistice. The fiery horse again charges furiously through the earth, and peace is taken away by a total war which dwarfs the World War in magnitude and destructiveness. The fond dreams of lasting peace have been shattered with a rude awakening. Why?

Men of affairs speak of this as a war for world domination. It is a violent clash between the parties to two sets of ideas, which ideas cannot for ever operate side by side on this earth. They are irreconcilable, and hence create a divided house of humankind. In view of what is coming upon the world, it does no one any good to hide from ourselves the truth with the thought that by smothering the truth the way can be laid for getting together in peace. The great cry of the nations fighting totalitarian aggression is for FREEDOM. Said the great "Prince of Peace": "The truth shall make you free." Let us for freedom's sake not fear to face the truth. The candid truth then, is, that religion is at the root of the world's trouble. That fact stands out clearly to all who desire to see the truth and to order their course aright. Not only freedom, but life, is involved.

Careful students of history agree that since the so-called "Reformation movement" of four centuries ago the condition was set up and has existed that must at last break forth in an all-out war for world domination. As a result of that Reformation the religious organization in England, up till then bound to papal Rome, was nationalized and Britain became a nation religiously independent of the Vatican. Then followed the setting up and spread of the British Empire to the ends of the earth. It has been a Protestant empire, and against it the Catholic empires of Spain and France have enviously dashed in vain. Added to that, in 1776 the American nation was born, a revolutionary democracy establishing a separation of religion and state, and hence it was a non-Catholic republic. Its ties with the British Empire have been natural, and, in spite of some disagreements, those ties have grown stronger with time and world developments. Thus the civilization that the earth has known for the past three hundred years has been held together and dominated by two Protestant and non-Catholic world powers of democratic ideals. For this reason democracy has been associated with Protestantism and the clergy have stirred up great prejudice against it in Catholic lands.

Down till the Reformation the Catholic civilization alone dominated, which method of life and rule was marked by absolute, autocratic governments backed and blessed by the clergy of a totalitarian Hierarchy. That totalitarian religious system demanded unquestioning obedience and submission to the will of the Hierarchy, and it allowed for no democracy and freedom of worship according to the written Word of God. This explains the action of the Vatican's head in 1849 when he called in the armies of the French to overturn the republic which freedom-loving Italians set up in Rome that year. It explains the undercover dealings of the Vatican through its nuncio to Germany, now pope, whereby the Nazi chieftain, a baptized Catholic, was maneuvered into power as dictator in Germany and a concordat with the Vatican was made and the German Republic was destroyed. It explains also why the Vatican and its Hierarchy in Spain and in America approved the rising up of a rebel to overthrow the Spanish Republic with the aid of the Nazi and Fascist dictators having concordat relations with Vatican City. It explains further why, after the Japanese began their assault, in 1937, for the conquest of the Chinese Republic, the Vatican sent out instructions to its missionaries in China to persuade the Chinese to submit to Japanese control. It explains why the French Republic was sold out, in 1940, and a devout member of the religious organization was made chief of state, abolishing "Brotherhood, Equality and Liberty" and erecting a Fascist state.

Moreover, it explains why religious influence was back of the Civil War of 1861 and the Vatican made overtures with the head of the Confederacy, reaching a shocking climax in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, who belonged to no religious organization but stood solidly by the Holy Bible. It explains, finally, the reason for the outbreak of religious intolerance in America in 1940, Hitler's great year, and the mob violence incited by the said religionists against Jehovah's witnesses, who believe in the righteous principles of this Republic's Constitution and who expose the schemes and efforts of the religious-totalitarian combine for world domination.

It is vital to the carrying on of democracy, therefore, for the rulers of the nations to have in mind the foregoing truths when they listen to the words of an outstanding archbishop of America who speaks for Vatican City. Speaking at Columbus, Ohio, in February, 1942, on the subject "How Can Peace Come to the World?" this Hierarchy spokesman said: "The enemy most feared by the dictators of nations and by all totalitarian governments is the Catholic Church. The democracies of the world have no reason to fear the church. History gives them no justification for suspicion . . . With the prophetic Pope Leo XIII let us say: 'Christ our Lord must be reinstated as the ruler of human society.'" (Cincinnati *Times-Star*, February 24, 1942) The sacred Scriptures and the facts of history prove that Christ Jesus has never yet been the "ruler of human society". Therefore the proposed 'reinstatement' means really the restoration of world domination of the religious head at Vatican City who claims to be the "vicegerent of Christ". The unchanging policy and purpose of that most powerful religious organization, the very heart of it, is, WORLD DOMINATION by it as being necessary to world salvation, because it claims itself to be the visible representative of Christ's kingdom. The violent, un-Christian means used by that religious organization to gain its position of world domination have never let this earth enjoy an enduring peace.

The inspired prophecy of Daniel, chapter eleven, foretold this present conflict as a war between the totalitarian "king of the north" and the democratic "king of the south". It points out the totalitarian world power as the aggressor in the grab for world control in the "time of the end". Since 1914 the world has been in its "time of the end", with the FINAL END yet ahead. Exactly how long the raging total war would continue the Scriptures do not seem to show. By some religionists this war has been named "Armageddon". Others, observing the theater of the battle getting near to Megiddo in Palestine, ask: "Are we facing Armageddon?" The Scriptures are plain that the final battle of Armageddon is one far more stupendous than a fight between "the king of the north" and "the king of the south"; it is a universal war, a fight between worlds. In it the entire present evil world will be destroyed and the new world of righteousness which Almighty God establishes by Christ Jesus will bring peace, prosperity and life to this war-racked earth. Hence this international war is not the "battle of that great day of God Almighty".—Revelation 16:14-16.

Before Armageddon comes, the Scriptures show, a peace must come. Hence it is proper that the problems of such peace be now considered. War problems at present engross the nations, and no true Christian will get in the way of those concerned therewith. But the war precedes a peace; and in a radio address at Philadelphia, broadcast around the world, concerning postwar leadership, the attorney general of the United States said (July 3, 1942): "It seems to me a wholesome thing that men are thinking in 1942 of ways to win a peace, and acting on their thoughts—yes, even now, while the war is yet to be won. It means that at last the realization has come to us that world war and world peace cannot be disassociated as parts of the same

great upheaval. The problems of peace and of war are interdependent." (New York *Times*, July 4, 1942) Shortly thereafter the ex-president of the nation said in a broadcast from San Francisco: "Whatever the modifying views of our associates in war may be, Americans should have formulated the kind of peace that THEY want. They must make up their minds BEFORE the war ends; otherwise others will make the peace, and not us." (New York *Times*, July 13, 1942) And in his recent book, on "The Problems of Lasting Peace", it is written: "The purpose of this war, the most terrible of three centuries, is to make a lasting Peace. We must first win the war. But we will not win lasting peace unless we prepare for it. And we can prepare only by full and free public discussion, by the cold surgery of analysis." In May it was revealed that thirty-five government agencies were then engaged in postwar planning. (Stated by T. E. D., May 9, 1942) International discussions, and likewise public forums, are being held on post-war problems.

Therefore the question is a timely and urgent one, "Peace—Can It Last?" The answer depends upon how the peace problems are solved. The greatest religious head in "Christendom" claims it his right to hold the world domination, and he is moving to exercise his power and influence in the peace conference, even offering the Vatican in which to hold it. By reason of his concordat with the Fascist dictator of Rome in 1929 he is now a temporal ruler as well as a religious one. The Hierarchy and the religious population which he rules as god declare that the Peace Treaty of 1919 failed because the pope was not in on it. He now appears in a peace role, pluming himself for a suitable place or voice in the coming Peace Conference. If he gains it, and if the Treaty of Vienna of 1815 is followed as to primacy of diplomatic representatives, then he or his official representative should preside as the "dean" of all the conferees. Says one of his American archbishops: "The only enduring peace that will restore the world to sanity and to a sense of the dignity of human personality is the peace of Pope Pius XII." And a monsignor in a radiocast from Washington, D.C., says: "He [that is, Pacelli] whose name is rooted in peace will be the one who will restore peace to the world; for when peace does come it will come, not in the way the world expects or plans it, but in an utterly unsuspected way."—Mgr. F. J. S., February 8, 1942.

A United Press dispatch of July 15, from Vichy, France, was therefore of peculiar interest to Americans who believe only in peace by victory, and no negotiated peace with a gangster, and which dispatch reads: "Diplomatic circles said tonight that the Vatican was preparing a peace encyclical, to be published in mid-August, defining Pope Pius XII's ideas of a basis for a negotiated peace and postwar world planning." "An earlier United Press dispatch from Vichy, which apparently had some bearing on this report, was completely censored out except for the statement that 'there was a noticeable rapproachment of the Vatican and non-Catholic powers' recently." (New York *Times*, July 16, 1942) Whom these "non-Catholic powers" include can be surmised, when this fact is remembered, that despite the break between Italy and the United States the secretary of the personal envoy of the president is meantime acting as the representative of this country to the Vatican.

The political statesmen of the world are also looking ahead to the peace, anxiously. Some fear the peace worse than they do the war, fearing for a great postwar slump, unemployment, dislocation of industry, communications' breakdown, international debt tangle, anarchy and revolutions in various places, famine and pestilence, and other evils. They hope that the mistakes and blunders of 1919 and following years will not be repeated. A great struggle is foreseen to "lift the living standards from one end of this planet to the other". The Nazi dictator has led his hordes on in world aggression with the promise of, to quote him, "a social state which must and shall be a model of perfection in every sphere of life"; and the pope has published to the world a five-point program for world peace.

Those of a democratic mind hope for a United States of the world, a "family of nations", a "world association" based on the United Nations, including a "world legion". Says one spokesman: "An international constitution and government will be a postwar necessity." Others argue for a "World Bill of Rights". Others say the evidence shows that the hopes of the world are for the League of Nations again; and one college official says that the World Court for international arbitration must be made the key in a revived League. One of the president's own cabinet members says: 'A world organization, with the United Nations as its base, will determine the peace, and the postwar world will be policed by the allied powers.'

The vice-president declares: "The century . . . which will come out of this war can and must be the century of the common man"; and another cabinet member forecasts "the people's century". A professor of economy says that the new world which men hope to build will be "the world of the common man". Of like mind are those who speak of a "democratic revolution" throughout the world. Others warn of great difficulties in the way of "any attempt to force personal liberty and representative governments upon nations". The indisputable facts speak loudly to agree that the great obstacle to world domination by the democratic way of life is the totalitarian religious system with its headquarters at Vatican City. All in all, the trend of the nations is plainly toward the federation of all into a world government that will be stronger than any of its parts, with power to enforce international law and to guarantee peace and security everywhere by an international police.

Those rulers and representatives of the people charged with the task of arranging the postwar conditions have a tremendous responsibility, not only before the people, but also before the great Universal Ruler, Jehovah God. The destiny of the nations and of the peoples is linked up therewith. Rightly the people are interested and deeply concerned; they do not want to be disappointed in the peace that will be made. Having fought and endured the hardships and privations of the war, they are entitled to know what to expect. It stands admitted that lasting peace and a "guarantee of permanent safety after the war" are promised and honestly desired and planned for by sincere men in authority. But who can give unfailing assurance that the peace made by imperfect men will work and lead to realizing all the fond hopes held forth?

There is only one authoritative answer to this vital question. It is Jehovah God's own infallible answer. His answer is recorded in the sacred Bible, the Book which is being overlooked and not consulted by the men of the world in all their proposals and plans for peace. Concerning this course the scripture says: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." (Psalm 9:17) And, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death."—Proverbs 16:25.

By the spirit of the Lord God his answer is made clear for explanation at this end of the world, in order that men of good-will may be guided into true peace without end and may avoid the snares of destruction. Nothing could be more pressing upon us than to consider God's answer now, before it is too late. The apostle calls Jehovah the "God of peace" (Romans 16:20) Through the Beloved Son, whose "name shall be called . . . The Prince of Peace", Jehovah God gives a direct answer in the last book of the Bible, which book the Giver says shows "things which must shortly come to pass". (Revelation 1:1) It shows the great obstacle to lasting peace, and who shall establish the desired peace by removing the centuries-old hindrance thereto. Concerning God's dominant part in the building of peace the Almighty One declares, at Isaiah 45:7: "I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil [calamity]; I am Jehovah, that doeth all these things." (*Am. Rev. Ver.*) There can be no enduring peace except that which is made and approved by Him. It has been and will again be the mistake of short-sighted, self-conceited men to 'cry Peace'; "when there is no peace."—Jeremiah 8:11.

The great issue, which rises above all others in importance, is that of UNIVERSAL DOMINATION. That is to say, Who is supreme in the universe and who shall rule it? Who is the Most High and Almighty God? That issue was raised by the great rebel and adversary of Jehovah and who is therefore called "Satan the Devil". The question for determination was raised by him in the days of Eden and in connection with perfect man on earth. Now, since 1914, by the casting of Satan and his demon organization out of their heavenly position and down to the earth, the issue has been forced for a showdown and is being pressed for a settlement right here at the earth. Hence at the earth the great battle of Armageddon will be fought. Therefore that battle is mightier than a mere total war between nations, and the destiny of the nations will be determined for all time by where or on whose side they stand in that universal conflict. This "battle of that great day of God Almighty" will put an end to all dispute over who shall rule the earth, Jehovah God or Satan the Devil.

The flood of Noah's day was a display of what God can do at the battle of Armageddon, and the Son of God said that 'as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man'. (Matthew 24:37-39) The Flood made a clean sweep of all the wicked on earth. Why, then, did not the earth remain righteous? Because the Devil and his demon hosts were permitted to remain; and this God permitted in order to test the integrity of men toward Him. Hence, when the race began to multiply, the Devil caused rebellion to break out among men in defiance of the Theocratic law of man's Creator. The leading organization in that breakaway from submission to the law of God was religious Babylon, which was a totalitarian organization founded by Nimrod its king. The Babylonians hailed and idolized him as mightier than Jehovah. The native meaning of the name "Babylon", or "Bab-il", is "The gate of god", thereby referring to Satan the Devil as the contender against Jehovah's universal domination. But Jehovah God called the organization "Ba-bel", which means "confusion".

From the start Babylon was organized for Satan, "the prince of this world," and was the enemy of the Most High God, Jehovah. Hence Babylon was and is used in the Bible as a symbol of the entire organization of Satan, who is the unfaithful Lucifer. Against the invisible ruler of that wicked organization Jehovah's prophet Isaiah was inspired to say: "Thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, . . . How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds: I will be like the Most High."—Isaiah 14:4, 12-14.

The foundation for ancient Babylon on earth was religion, and religion was made most prominent therein, as its mighty temples showed. Its ruler was a devout practicer of demonism, and united in himself religion and state. Therefore Babylon was also used as a symbol of that which is the chief link or binding tie between the invisible demons and men on earth, namely, organized religion,

which is demonism. The famous British cardinal Newman, in his *Essay on Development*, frankly states that his religious organization undertook to "transmute the very instruments and appendages of DEMON-worship to an evangelical use" and that religion's many formalisms and knicknacks not mentioned in the Bible "are all of pagan origin, and sanctified by their adoption into the [Roman Catholic] Church". The Protestant systems of Western Europe and America recognize that religious organization as their "mother", and so speak. In Scripture Babylon is symbolized as an unclean woman, and therefore the same symbol applies to "organized religion". The aim of ancient Babylon was world domination, and found its greatest fulfillment in the days of King Nebuchadnezzar, the mighty practicer and patron of religion. What powerful religious organization is it today that has as its declared aim the world's domination and commands all men to be subject to its religious head for their salvation? There is only one answer, and that is, The one which is still the mightiest religious organization in "Christendom" and in all the earth. Therefore "organized religion" of "Christendom", both the mother system and the daughters thereof, seeks to occupy the position foretold at Revelation **17:18,15**, which reads: "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. . . . The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

Note now the Scriptural answer to our question concerning peace as given by the great Revealer of secrets in Revelation, chapter seventeen. The World War was stopped in **1918**. The implement that was then prescribed and provided to maintain the peace was the League of Nations with its World Court, which, eventually, was joined by fifty-seven nations of the world. The United States did not join the League, but did become a member of the World Court and also signed the Kellogg Peace Pact of **1928** renouncing war as a means of settlement of controversies. This League was hailed by the Protestant federal council of religious organizations of America as "the political expression of the Kingdom of God on earth", but it was not so styled by the religious ruler at Vatican City. By the London Treaty of **1915** between Italy and Britain he was shut out of the peace conference and had no direct part in the creation of the League of Nations. It was therefore never popular with the chief religious organization on earth, because she could not ride it. Her past history shows, however, that anything which she can use, even be it the very things of demonism, she will sanctify to her use. Will she yet sanctify the League?

The League of Nations, with world power and authority and fifty-seven members, was a scarlet-colored political creature, new and unusual but imaging in respects the seven world powers of human history. It combined also the living relics of all seven of them. It is therefore an added world power, the "eighth" one. In the prophecy of Daniel a political governing creature or oganization is symbolized by a beast. In harmony therewith, the League of Nations is symbolized, in Revelation **17:3**, as a "scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns". No crowns or diadems are mentioned as on its heads or horns, because separate national sovereignties are given up in the interest of world unity.

As for its names of blasphemy, "blasphemy" here means the ascribing to men that which belongs to God or which Almighty God alone can do. In connection with this association of nations, it is noted that its creators and backers make for it promises that it will do what God's Word plainly declares only his Theocratic Government or Kingdom by Christ Jesus will do. Thereby these false political and religious prophets paste the beastly creature with "names of blasphemy". Thereby they cause it to "stand in the holy place", "where it ought not." (Matthew **24:15**; Mark **13:14**) This desolates men's faith in God and in his ability to fulfill His promises. It makes men forget God and fills them with a contempt for His Word and power. In their glorifying of self-help and in their self-conceited effort to run ahead of God and to capture the glory for themselves, they trample on His Word and put themselves in opposition to God and his kingdom and are guilty of creature-worship. Rejecting the Word of the Lord, what wisdom is in them? (Jeremiah **8:9**) They have no vision of Jehovah's Righteous Government by Christ, and the result is disastrous to the people. "Where there is no vision, the people perish," says the proverb.—Proverbs **29:18**.

The League of Nations was a composite or collective creature, a descendant of and a summing up of the previous seven world powers. Concerning it God's Word says: "And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition." (Revelation **17:11**) It can now be said that the League "was, and is not". What is the reason therefor? The League, as it was, operated under the domination of the seventh world power, the British Empire, which is a democratic and Protestant world power such as the world had never seen before. That was the wrong management to please the mighty religious organization hungering for world dominance. Immediately after the League's establishment Catholic Action was organized world-wide, but particularly in the United States, which was independent of the League. Then Fascism and Nazism were organized and maneuvered into power, and seized control in Italy and Germany.

Seven years after putting the liberal government to the side, the Fascist dictator signed a concordat with the Vatican, and Vatican City was made a political state, demanding political recognition by all nations of earth. Four years later, with the help of Catholic Action, the Nazi leader abolished the German Republic and signed a concordat with the head of his church. This was followed by acts of contempt of the League, sabotaging it. Japan began her aggressions against China, a League member. The Nazi dictator treated the Versailles Peace Treaty like a scrap of paper, and resigned from the League. The Fascist dictator committed his assault upon Ethiopia, a League member, and, because peeved at the League's treatment, he resigned therefrom. Japan also resigned from it. Russia was dropped from the League. Then the Nazi dictator assaulted other League members, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and others, including the League's main pillar, the island stronghold of Britain. On November **20, 1940**, at Vienna, the Axis Powers and Japan and Hungary signed a "new League of Nations", and four days later the Vatican broadcast a mass and a prayer for a religious peace and for a new order of things. With Switzerland like a tiny island in the midst of countries weltering in total war, and with invasion and partition of Switzerland being threatened, the League palace at Geneva was obliged to shut up. Though forty members still profess to adhere to the League, the League is in effect in a state of suspended animation, and needs to be revived if it is ever to live again. It has gone into the abyss of inaction and ineffectiveness. It "is not".

Will the League remain in the pit? Again the Word of God gives answer: "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and is about to come up out of the abyss, and to go into perdition. And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, they whose name hath not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast, how that he was, and is not, and shall be present." (Revelation **17:8**, *Am. Rev. Ver.*, margin) The association of worldly nations will rise again. The fight between "the king of the north" and "the king of the south", being for WORLD domination makes such an outcome of this total war unavoidable. The necessities of meeting the totalitarian aggressions and stopping them are forcing the nations to that final confederation of nations for the new order, whatever its form. A prominent New York clergyman recently said (July **19, 1942**): "It is a world family now or else collective suicide. Something in the very nature of things is forcing us to that; something greater than ourselves is after us. Turn anywhere one will, one sees this." (New York *Times*)

But mark this: The prophecy shows that when the "beast" comes out of the abyss at the end of this total war it comes out with the woman "Babylon" on its back, or she climbs upon its back as soon as it gets out. That means that "organized religion", and this time the religious organization with headquarters at Vatican City, will ride and exercise guiding influence over the League beast. To this day the Vatican has not canceled its concordats with the Nazi and Fascist dictators, and in May of this year it opened diplomatic relations with the sneak attackers of Pearl Harbor and has ignored the several protests of the United States Deparment of State thereat. The pope's five-point program calls for the Vatican's free action without interference as one of the requirements of his "new order founded on moral principles". Likewise the United Nations opposing the totalitarian powers voice their pledge of freedom of religion as one of the four freedoms to be secured when peace comes. The repeated cries and demands of politicians and religionists for "More religion!" make certain that religion will ride the peace beast. The personal envoy sent by the president of the nation to the Vatican to work together with the religious chief for peace is another forerunner of the courtesy and deference that will be paid to the "woman" named Babylon when the total war ends. Her intercourse then with the rulers of the world will satisfy her worldly desires, and she will pronounce the peace arrangement a "peace of Christianity", another one of those "names" of "blasphemy" tacked on the "beast".

The question now comes up for answer, Will religion guarantee that the man-made peace will last? When "organized religion" climbs upon the back of the beast, then she is guilty of her last act of spiritual fornication with the world, and then her final judgment begins. Concerning this the prophetic record says: "Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, . . . And I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." (Revelation **17:1, 2, 3, 5**) Whatever peace the religious woman enforces between the nations, the vital question is, Will she lead the rulers and nations into the peace with God? Let no one be deceived by the claims and boasts of "organized religion"; for God's Word answers, No. She will lead in a peacetime WAR against the Lamb of God, Christ Jesus the King, and the "peace" beast will charge where she drives it. Under her influence the rulers, or the ten horns of the beast, do not give their power to the Lamb. The prophetic record reads: "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet [because not yet "blessed" by the woman Babylon]; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast." Then what? "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."—Revelation **17:11-14**.

Outstanding statesmen of the world have frequently referred in public to the battle of Armageddon and to the nations' being gathered there, but have failed to mention that the

record at Revelation 16:14-16 says it is the wicked DEMONS that are the powers doing the gathering. With such information available to them, the nations should have put themselves on guard against all demonism, which is religion. But they have not done so. They have fallen for and now demand "More religion", and religion is demonism and against Jehovah God and his Theocratic Government. What has religion done to stop the march of the nations to Armageddon? Nothing; absolutely nothing! It has marched right along with the nations and blessed them in their course. The superhuman demons are not leading the nations to peace, but to war and destruction. With demons influencing the course of the nations there can never be a permanent peace. Before the flood of Noah's day the earth was filled with violence, which was due to the demons, and then suddenly the end of that old world came. Is the greater violence now the sure sign of the FINAL END at hand? In the light of the Scriptures, Yes! and it is time for the nations to take note that religion's ambition, under the lead of the Vatican's Hierarchy, to dominate the earth is but the demons' idea and purpose to tighten control of this earth and its people and thereby hold control of all in opposition to Jehovah God and in denial of His universal domination!

"War with the Lamb" means that under the guidance and influence of "organized religion" the nations will forget Jehovah God and his Theocratic Government by Christ Jesus. They will choose to rule themselves under the sanction and blessing of the "woman" Babylon. That is an abomination to Almighty God, because it is in opposition to Him. How will such an "abomination of desolation" make war with the Lamb? By continuing their present hatred and persecution upon those who are with him, that is, on his side, namely, the "called, and chosen, and faithful". (Acts 5:38, 39) That means, while guaranteeing religion they will oppose true Christianity. They will continue to take action against Jehovah's witnesses and their companions who announced Jehovah's kingdom under Christ and who refuse to get on the 'peace beast' and to ride along with religion. Incensed at the persistent proclamation of God's kingdom, and because it shows up the false, hypocritical position of the religious "New World order", the beast with all its heads and horns, and with the "woman" Babylon spurring it on, will make a desperate try at goring and trampling to death the Kingdom proclamation. By force it will succeed in stopping the preaching thereof. But Christ Jesus warned that when this witness work is finished, and when Almighty God permits it to be stopped by the "woman" and the beast, "then shall the end come" for them.—Matthew 24:14.

With Jehovah's witnesses put under complete restraint for disturbing the sensibilities of religionists and totalitarian statesmen, the "new order" rulers will cry "Peace"; 'but there will be no peace,' that is, none with Jehovah God and his Lamb, "the King of kings." God's Word warns: "When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (1 Thessalonians 5:3) Once again we ask the leading question, "PEACE—Can It Last?" and God's definite answer is, No! Man-made peace under religion's "blessing" will be very short-lived, and political kings and rulers will not long enjoy it. The record says they "receive power as kings ONE HOUR with the beast". "One hour," with God, denotes a very brief time; and suddenly those ten horns and the beast will go into perdition not peacefully, but violently, at the battle of Armageddon. This time the beast and its heads and horns will go, not into the "bottomless pit", but into the "lake of fire and brimstone", to be utterly consumed and destroyed.—Revelation 19:20; 20:10.

But what shall befall the "woman Babylon", "organized religion," riding the beast? At the end of that "one hour" of the rulers with the beast, they will be forced to see the hypocrisy of religion and that it deceived them with false hopes and led them into a hopeless position with destruction as the only outcome. The prophetic Word reads: "And the ten horns which thou sawest, and the beast, these shall hate the harlot, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and shall burn her utterly with fire. For God did put in their hearts to do his mind, and to come to one mind, and to give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished." (Revelation 17:16, 17, *Am. Rev. Ver.*) Will the religionists and all other persecutors of Jehovah's witnesses take note, please, that it is not Jehovah's faithful witnesses that will thus violently break up "organized religion"? The world powers will do it, the very ones with whom religion is committing spiritual fornication by making common cause with them against Jehovah's Theocracy and those who bear witness to it. —Ezekiel 16:28-43; 23:17-31.

"Organized religion," called "Christiandom", has professed to be the city called by God's name and has thus deceived the rulers and their subjects. What shall happen to the nations and their association for world peace when the Lord God by Christ Jesus suddenly begins the Armageddon fight and divides the forces of his enemies and then the "ten horns" overthrow "organized religion"? The "horns" will not thus act out of love for Christianity or for The Theocracy. Jehovah God thereby executes his judgment upon "organized religion", and to her destroyers he holds out the cup of destruction and says: "Ye shall certainly drink. For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD [Jehovah] shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth."—Jeremiah 25:28, 29, 32, 33.

Thus once and for all time the primary issue will be settled, Shall the earth be included in Jehovah's universal domination or shall it continue under "Babylon", which is Satan's organization? Satan and all his organization, visible and invisible, will be destroyed at Armageddon, and the issue will be closed in eternal vindication of Jehovah's name. Before going down into destruction the nations shall be made to know that He is Jehovah.—Ezekiel 38:23; Zephaniah 3:8.

With the early fate of the "woman" Babylon, or "organized religion", set forth so clearly in God's sure word of prophecy, the warning cry is sent out to the people who seek life and endless peace and who desire to be God's people: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. . . . Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." (Revelation 18:2, 4, 5) This is no time to be deceived. Religion's domination in the coming peace of the so-called "new order" will cause the majority of earth's dwellers to wonder in admiration of the "beast" of world organization for peace. The fate of such for refusing God's truth and warning is stated in these words: "And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."—Revelation 17:8.

The faithful witnesses of Jehovah God will not wonder and be deceived. They will plow right on through the persecution and opposition, keeping on preaching His Theocracy by Christ Jesus and the new world of righteousness and peace which it shall bring in, until the witness work is finished and the final end comes. The people of good-will who now heed the Kingdom message of the Good Shepherd will likewise not be deceived and wonder at and admire the "abomination of desolation" as it stands deceptively in the "holy place" of God's Righteous Government. In the choice between the "beast" ridden by the "woman" Babylon and "The Lamb", they choose Jehovah's "Lamb", who is "King of kings, and Lord of lords". They come out from Babylon, leaving her and the "beast" and its "horns" to their destiny at God Almighty's hands. They without delay heed the warning and instruction of the King, who foretold the appearing of the counterfeit makeshift for peace and said: "When ye, therefore, shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judæa flee into the mountains: for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."—Matthew 24:15, 16, 21.

Only those who flee to the "mountains" designated by the King will survive that greatest of all tribulations, Armageddon, and enter into the righteous new world of peace without end. Only such will have their names written in the book of life from the foundation of the new world. To them, the "other sheep", the Good Shepherd-and King will say: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom [blessings] prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 25:34) The only "mountains" to which to escape for protection and for survival unto life everlasting are Jehovah God, the great "Rock of ages", and Christ Jesus, the 'express image of the Father's person'. (Isaiah 26:4, *Am. Rev. Ver.*, margin; Hebrews 1:3) Jehovah's prophecy by Daniel likens His Theocratic Government by Christ Jesus to a "great mountain" that "filled the whole earth". But first that heavenly Government breaks in pieces and removes forever the great obstacle to lasting peace on earth, namely, Satan's mighty organization and its religion. Instead, Jehovah's Government shall "stand for ever".—Daniel 2:35, 44, 45.

Concerning the King of Jehovah's Theocratic Rule it is written: "And the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, . . . The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6, 7, *Am. Rev. Ver.*) Concerning the peacefulness of his reign world-wide it is further written: "The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." (Psalm 72:3, 7, 8) Concerning the freedom from war, freedom from want, and freedom from fear on the part of those who survive Armageddon and enter the new world under The Theocracy it is written: "Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD [Jehovah] of hosts hath spoken it." —Micah 4:3, 4

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